

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome
STREET.—MARRIAGE.WOODS' THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas
Hotel.—THE WIVES—AND THE GOOD FOR NOTHING.SAN FRANCISCO MINISTRIES, 55 Broadway, opposite
Metropolitan Hotel.—GEOFFREY'S SINGERS. DANCERS, &c.—
THE DIVING BELLOWS.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—SING-
ING, DANCING, BURLESQUES, &c.—THE FAIRY GUARDIAN.GEORGE CHRISTY'S OLD SCHOOL OF MINISTRIES,
BALLAD, MUSICAL, &c. 414 Broadway, Opera House,
Nos. 2 and 4 West Broadway.—STREET—THE SINGING
BELL.BRYANT'S MINISTRIES, Mechanics Hall, 472 Broad-
way.—SINGING, DANCING, BURLESQUES, &c.—THE MISER-
ABLES.BOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—LITTON MIN-
ISTRIES.—BALLAD, BURLESQUES, &c.—THE FAIRY GUARDIAN.BROOKLYN ATHLETIC.—ROBERT HELLER, THE GREAT
CONJURER.COOPER INSTITUTE, Astor Place.—GRAND MAY DAY
FESTIVAL OF UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL.IRVING HALL, Irving Place.—GRAND VOCAL AND IN-
STRUMENTAL CONCERT.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 613 Broadway.—
Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, Corner of Twenty-
third Street and Fourth Avenue.—EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL
WORKS BY LIVING ARTISTS.STUDIO BUILDING, 15 Tenth Street.—Mead's STATUES
IN MARBLE.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, May 3, 1866.

THE NEWS.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

Commodore Rodgers' official report of his course in attempting to prevent the late bombardment of Valparaiso by the Spanish fleet is published in the Herald this morning. He says that the English Admiral at first agreed to assist him in preventing the bombardment by force measures if they should become necessary, but that he refused co-operation after consultation with the British Minister. In conclusion he warmly thanks General Kilpatrick for advice and assistance.

On the 1st of April the two monitors Huascar and Independencia, built in England for the Peruvians, arrived in the port of Rio Janeiro. Two days before arriving at the port the Huascar captured two vessels belonging to the Spanish mercantile marine, which, under Chilean control, will make a formidable fleet of four vessels now rounding Cape Horn in search of the destroyers of Valparaiso.

EUROPE.

Our special correspondence from Europe, published to-day, is dated in Madrid, Vienna, Berlin, Paris and St. Petersburg, at the latest moment for mail previous to the departure of the Scotia from Queenstown.

The letters contain matter of much interest and importance relative to the prospects of Spain in her war in the Pacific, and the causes which more immediately influenced her towards the undertaking, as well as her recent demonstration against St. Domingo. The history is a curious one. The main conclusion to be drawn from it is that the Spaniards are engaged in a desperate endeavor to plunder as much money from Chile, Peru and the neighboring republics as will enable them to attempt to regain Gibraltar from England either by force or purchase. It is said that this idea, a passion with the people of Spain, is encouraged by Napoleon. Marked honor was given to everything American in Madrid; so marked, indeed, that it was reported that the O'Donnell Cabinet had received assurances from Secretary Seward of his sympathy with its policy towards Chile.

It is shown that every great Power in Europe, with the exception perhaps of England, hopes to enjoy some direct gain from a war between Prussia and Austria, and that the diplomatic action of each is shaped very much with a view to such contingent profit. Our Vienna correspondent states that the military men of Austria are very confident of the Emperor's success in the struggle. They point out that Prussia has not one disinterested ally, and assert that in case of war the Austrian troops will hold the famous quadrilateral until their French allies, and then attend to Italy should Italy side with Bismarck.

Paris was, as usual, moved by statecraft and scandal.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Sherman introduced an act to reduce the interest on the national debt, which provides for a five per cent reduction of the loan, to be applied to the payment of the existing debt. It was referred to the Committee on Finance. Two amendments to the Reconstruction Committee's bill were proposed. Mr. Trumbull's amendment to the Post Office Appropriation bill was adopted and the bill passed.

In the House the Conference Committee on the Cuban Telegraph made a report, which was agreed to. Further testimony from the Reconstruction Committee was presented and ordered to be printed. The Army bill was next under consideration, and all the sections having been separately analyzed and discussed, the yeas and nays on the passage of the bill were taken and resulted—yeas 53, nays 38.

THE CITY.

The cholera at the lower Quarantine still continues to decrease. No more new cases had occurred, and but one death had taken place on board of the Falcon. The immediate sitting up of the steamer Saratoga is strongly recommended by Dr. Hissel, in his official report, for convalescent purposes.

A woman named Jenkins, a native of Ireland, died on Tuesday last, at her residence, corner of Ninety-third street and Third avenue, having all the symptoms of cholera. The health authorities immediately instituted an investigation of the case, which resulted in the decision that it was undoubtedly cholera. The circumstances attending the case will be found elsewhere.

Intense excitement prevailed yesterday afternoon in Wall street, owing to the discovery of a number of forgeries of railroad bonds and checks, to the amount of nearly three hundred thousand dollars. Several banks and prominent business men are reported to have been victimized by the operations of the forger, who is supposed to be a Mr. John Rags, lately doing business as a broker in Exchange place.

The rub of applicants for forms of license continues at the various station houses and at the office of the Inspector of Excise, such as have been unable to obtain the requisite form from the police captains need not be uneasy about the suspension of their business by the authorities, who will not interfere with them until their respective cases have been examined by the committee for that purpose, when they will be officially notified of the result.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday and rescinded the resolution directing the widening of Ann and Fulton streets. On motion the Board of Councilmen concurred in the same action.

The double turreted iron clad gunboat Miantonomoh, of the Eastern Flying squadron, left the Brooklyn Navy Yard yesterday and steamed down the East river to a position off the Battery, where she will remain until the 5th, when she will be conveyed to her destination by the gunboats Augusta and Ashcroft.

The Board of Education last evening passed resolutions regarding the overcrowding of the public schools, providing disinfecting material for the depository, and calling for information as to the number of scholars and the proportionate accommodations for them in the public schools.

A meeting was held in Manhattanville last night for the purpose of taking such steps as may have the effect of inducing the Eighth Avenue Railroad Company to resume the running of their cars above Eighty-fourth street for the accommodation of the public. A committee was appointed to confer with the Railroad Company on the subject.

A case came up in the United States Commissioner's Court yesterday, before Commissioner Stillwell, in which Rosannah Lewis was charged with passing counterfeit fifty cent currency. She was held for examination.

Another extradition case came before Commissioner Newton yesterday in the United States Commissioner's Court. The accused, Ferdinand Baesche, only arrived here yesterday from Europe, and was arrested on the

requisition of the Consul for the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, where, it is alleged, the prisoner forged bills to the amount of 20,000 Prussian thalers. The case was adjourned to the 16th, in order to afford the prisoner an opportunity of providing counsel.

In the United States Commissioner's Court yesterday, before Commissioner Osborn, Simon Donce was charged with making alleged fraudulent returns of whiskey distilled by him. The defendant was admitted to bail in \$10,000 to answer.

The case of Martin Quirk, charged with attempting to pass a counterfeit twenty dollar bill, was up yesterday again before Commissioner Osborn, but was postponed till Friday after the examination of several witnesses for the prosecution.

The nitro-glycerine case came up yesterday again before Commissioner Betts, but was adjourned till tomorrow in consequence of the absence of witnesses.

The examination in the case of the Madison avenue bond robbery, which was to have been continued yesterday morning, was postponed until Friday on account of the decease of a brother of Assistant District Attorney Gunning S. Bedford.

The stock market was firm yesterday. Governments were steady. Gold advanced, and closed at 127½, after selling up to 128½.

There was no essential difference in the commercial position yesterday as compared with Tuesday. Business in imported merchandise was restricted by the Brokers' Tax law, in some cases compelling them to pay two or three times as much as they make, but trade in domestic produce was very limited. Groceries were quiet and unchanged. Petroleum firm. Cotton dull and heavy. On 'Change flour was steady. Wheat firmer. Corn in better demand but easier. Pork excited and heavy. Beef steady. Lard heavy. Whiskey dull and nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our correspondence from the city of Mexico is to date April 11. The siege at Manzanilla still continued, with occasional skirmishes. The liberal commander, Mendez, was found, while sick, by the French, and on refusing to surrender, was shot in his bed. Three of the most influential citizens in the neighborhood were also shot, and heavy fines imposed on others, among whom were the sons of the murdered Mendez. The draft to replace the retiring foreign army will undoubtedly take place. A peremptory term for the presentation of all credits against revenues has been fixed. Numerous small engagements have taken place since our last advice, all amounting to imperial victories, according to the Vera Cruz authorities.

By the steamship Eagle, from Havana, at this port yesterday, we learn that a cargo of negroes had just been landed at the south side of the island, and that the "sacros de carbon" were immediately distributed. Several ships were expected from China with coals. There was a very large stock of sugar on hand. Freightage for the United States was brisk at about previous rates. The small-pox was decreasing at Ponce, Porto Rico. Seven dwellings had been destroyed by fire in that city. We have also later advice from the French West India islands, by the same route, dated at Martinique and Guadeloupe. Fifty members of the colonial Legislature had determined to demand from France the same laws and legislative powers as are enjoyed in the mother country. In Guadeloupe the deaths from cholera averaged seven and one-fourth per cent of the population. The disease was local. The immense production of beet root sugar in Europe alarmed the planters of both islands.

Our advices from St. Domingo are dated in St. Domingo city to the 14th of April. The late revolutionary movement on the southern frontier of the island induced, at the very moment of its suppression, a large insurrectionary party to rise in another quarter and suddenly seize the towns of San Cristobal, Bani and San Jose de Ocoa. The government acted promptly and with energy. Troops were marched rapidly from different points and concentrated so judiciously that the insurgents were dispersed. Two of the most active of the leaders were executed and order was restored. After the 14th of April it is optional with the importers of merchandise in St. Domingo to pay the duties in gold, silver or treasury notes, the gold ounce value being taken as the standard when the last named currency is used.

The United States gunboat Bienville arrived at St. Domingo on the 14th of April, and next day her commander, accompanied by one of his officers, called upon President Diaz. El Tiempo says important matters were treated at the interview.

The news from Venezuela, dated April 7, intimates that the republic was very likely to sympathize with Spain in her war against Chile, the Venezuelan authorities recollecting that their parts are completely defeated, and the people remembering how their poorer countrymen were recruited in the Spanish West India Islands as privileged refugees during the late troubles at home. The new gold mines of Nueva Providencia are said to yield abundantly. Military squabbles about State rights claims disturbed the territory at some points.

We have files from British Guiana dated at Georgetown, Demerara, on the 7th of April. Yellow fever is said to have completely disappeared from the colony. The latest market report quotes—Alumina—None, and wanted. Best—\$15. Broad (pilot)—\$5. Cracker—\$7 per barrel, consumption extremely limited. Fish (cod)—\$3 per barrel; inferior, \$14 to \$16. Flour—New-Baltimore and extra Ohio, \$8. Hams—American, 15c to 20c. Hay—American, \$2 50. Horses—Canadian, \$100 to \$150; saddle and draft, \$250 for good heavy ones; American sales ex J. T. Lehigh, Ltd.—American, \$416 per ton of 25 lbs. for New York; \$4 25 for Baltimore. Mules—Last sale for American, \$145. Pork—American mess, \$25 50; clear, \$22; prime mess, \$23 50, declining. Potatoes—American \$4 for good; wanted. Shooks—\$1 40 for American sugar hds. in lots. Tar—\$4 per barrel. Tobacco—Pine—American, \$8 per barrel; looking up. Tobacco (leaf)—Duty, 18c per lb., 35c per lb.; manufactured, 40c. Freight—For sugar, to London, Liverpool and Clyde, 2s to 2s 3d. Exchange on London, private bills, 90 days sight, \$476; bankers' bills, 90 days sight, \$480.

The Connecticut Legislature met yesterday to organize themselves for the ensuing year, when General J. R. Hawley was formally inaugurated Governor of that State, and delivered his opening message. The Legislature also received an interesting communication from the retiring Governor, Buckingham. The reader will find in another column such passages of both documents as are of general interest.

An order has emanated from the War Department explaining the peace proclamation of the President as far as it refers to the trial of citizens by the military. No citizens are amenable to military law where there is a civil court to try them, except camp followers, sutlers and contractors.

The steamer Washington Irving, which was libelled at Norfolk and escaped to sea a few days ago by running by a heavy fire from the forts below Norfolk, was overtaken on Tuesday, about nine miles out, when the captain refused to return, claiming that the government claim against her had been paid the morning she left. A guard was placed on her, and she was allowed to proceed northward.

The Fenians have created another excitement on the border. The British schooner Friend cleared from Rostport Tuesday night with a party of armed Fenians on board, and was seen yesterday morning flying the flag of the Irish Republic. The Wineski started in full pursuit at five o'clock yesterday afternoon.

In the testimony reported yesterday from the Committee on Reconstruction General Sheridan's evidence as to affairs in his department is given. The General believes the people there accept the situation, and are anxious to return to their full political rights in the Union, but exhibit at the same time a strong desire to glorify rebellion.

List of the vessels composing the British North American squadron and the United States Flying squadron, both intended to protect the respective interests of the British and the Americans in the fishing grounds during the ensuing summer, is published in the Herald to-day.

Yesterday morning a serious riot between whites and blacks in Memphis commenced by the negroes firing on a white citizen, and continued all day. The police and citizens, in attempting to arrest the blacks, were fired upon, and an indiscriminate running fight took place. Four citizens and fifteen negroes were killed.

An account of a court reception by the Emperor of Brazil, with interesting items relative to some of the queer customs of the people of that country, furnished by our correspondent at Rio Janeiro, will be found in another column.

The heavy floods are still devastating Louisiana, and the planters are in despair over their heavy losses.

A convention meets at Knoxville, Tennessee, to-day, for the purpose of initiating measures to divide the State and set off the eastern counties into a separate State, to be called East Tennessee.

The trial of Henderson, charged with government frauds at Nashville, still continues.

The Bombardment of Valparaiso—The Disgrace of Spain.

Spain has finally delivered one blow in her war against the South American republics. She has asserted her dignity, and, it is to be supposed, satisfied her honor. Not, it is true, against embattled hosts or forts bristling with cannon; but against rows of hostile and empty dwelling houses, against bales on bales of dangerous dry goods and innumerable packages of threatening merchandise of every description. She has subdued this terrible array and doubtless feels that she is safe. She has burned twenty million dollars worth of property to show the world how delicate is her sense of propriety and how impossible it is for her to rest under an insult. But it is doubtful whether this assertion of her national honor, this glorious victory over dry goods and hardware, will not put a deeper stain upon Spanish honor than the one that Spain believes she has wiped away. It is doubtful whether Admiral Nufiez would not have done his country better service by following the example of Admiral Parcs and blown his brains out months ago.

The harm done to Chile will be repaired sooner than the harm done to Spain. The physical injury is a mere scratch; trade will restore the millions of the merchants as readily as the masons will put again in their places the stones knocked out of the Valparaiso Exchange. But the moral injury done to Spain—the responsibility before the world for this piece of barbarity—will thicken the odium that centuries have gathered around the Spanish name, and will hasten the fall of that decrepit and shameless Power. In an age when nations fight for ideas, Spain is the one nation that, having no great idea—never moved to any grand purpose—declares war over ideas that others justly despise, and prosecutes that war in a way to earn, not glory, not the applause of any people under the sun, but the sneer and the detestation of every civilized portion of the human race. The character of Spain is typified by the scene in Valparaiso harbor—a nation boasting its courage and its chivalry with incomparable bombast, asserting that courage where there is none to render blow for blow, and exhibiting that chivalry only where there is no danger, to dignify its defeat.

The British and French authorities in South America were hardly less to blame than Spain. They exhibited a disgraceful weakness. Commodore Rodgers and General Kilpatrick acted wisely and deserve the gratitude of the country. While they preserved a proper temper and moderation, they put on record a protest against the disgraceful act that will be echoed by the whole people. It is to be deeply regretted that it was out of their power to do more. Even the remarkable circumstances of the case did not justify a single handed interference; but an ordinary display of firmness on the part of the English and French authorities, or the assumption by the English Commodore of an attitude similar to that taken by Commodore Rodgers, would have stopped the Spanish incendiary. If the English commandant had only been dictatorial with that British arrogance that has led to British interference in so many doubtful cases he might have covered himself with an honorable fame.

This Spanish bombardment must stir to action the governments that have hitherto quietly looked on and held their hands. Spain defies the common decency of the world. She simply runs a muck against British, French and American commerce, and cannot even put up the pretence that she accomplishes by her destruction any legitimate object of war. If ever there was a case for national intervention this certainly is one. There is no cause of quarrel, no wrong to redress; but because a Power is not ready to meet Spanish punctilio half way a commercial city must be bombarded. Where is all that sensitiveness as to humanity of which we heard so much from England and France when we were at war to re-establish the authority of our government? But if the case does not touch the sense of humanity in England and France, it reaches and awakens the indignation of our people, and our government will not properly reflect the will of the people if it does not initiate on this very point measures whose ultimate result will be to drive Spain from this hemisphere.

It will be seen by our news from Rio Janeiro that on the very day of the bombardment two vessels arrived at Rio, built in England, for Peru. They are heavily armed iron-clads. This is the practical intervention of British neutrality. We would rather have heard that the British government had made some positive declaration. We would prefer to rejoice in any other event against Spain than one due to that "neutrality" from which we have ourselves suffered so much; but we cannot regret that the ships of Admiral Nufiez are likely soon to be in a position less safe than that in front of Valparaiso. It is saying all that is possible against the conduct of Spain when we declare that it in some measure justifies the neutrality of British shipbuilders.

TRUMBULL'S AMENDMENT TO THE POST OFFICE BILL.

No one thing during this session has exhibited the desperation of the radicals in Congress more than the attempt to force the adoption of the rider in regard to the executive appointments, which the Senate is trying to attach to the Post Office Appropriation bill. By that act the radicals declare to the world that their only strength is in the patronage of the government; that this is the bond which holds their party together, and without it they must go to pieces. They have been prating during the whole session about their strong hold upon the people; that the public be mandated from their hands this and that measure, and furthermore that their party stands on an impregnable basis. But the moment that the President commences to exercise his constitutional prerogative in the removal of radicals from office, the radical Senators come forward with a proposition which refutes all their own statements and arguments, and place themselves on record before the world, declaring that their party has no strength without the patronage. They in effect assert that the principles of their party are the loaves and fishes, and nothing else. In order to retain this, they are ready to override the time-honored customs and usages in vogue ever since the foundation of the government. Such is the patriotism of the present radical leaders in Congress. Such are the motives which govern the men who are now occupying places once filled by statesmen. There can be no better evidence furnished of the weakness of the radicals before the country than the attempt to force the Trumbull

amendment in regard to the removals and appointments to office upon the Post Office Appropriation bill. Surely, they must have reached a deplorable pass, or they never would attempt to resort to so weak a dodge.

The Fenians Still Under Arms—Advent of an Irish Kossuth.

In spite of the dismal failure of the O'Mahony and Killian faction, the Roberts and Sweeney wing of the ferocious Fenians is still swelling for a fight. The Fenians have dropped quietly out of the newspapers lately; but the circles are still kept up, public meetings are still held, funds are being collected, and Roberts and Sweeney are now getting all the dollars. Where the treasure is there will the heart be also, and consequently it is fair to believe that the affections of the Irish masses have been transferred with their money. O'Mahony is deep in the mud, and his former followers are trampling upon him. Kicked out of the lordly mansion at Union square by those who have been his dupes, he is reported as nearly crazed by his sudden downfall. Killian has not yet returned to the city since his Eastport raid; but threats have been uttered against his life by his infuriated victims, and it is perhaps most prudent for him to stay away. He and O'Mahony openly accuse each other of treason to the Brotherhood, and an investigating committee now has charge of all the books and papers at the Union square headquarters. This fiasco, of course, strengthens Roberts and Sweeney, who predicted it long ago. They are said to be diligently manufacturing cartridges and waiting until the Canadian volunteers go home to their wives and their tough medicines, the British fleet sails away and General Meade withdraws his forces, so that the Fenian army may go in and win Canada without much danger. This is a very pretty scheme; but in order to be successfully carried out it demands secrecy instead of notoriety, and prompt, vigorous action instead of braggadocio. We are afraid that Roberts and Sweeney will fall to secure these requisites; for to keep quiet and do something seems quite beyond the Fenian power.

In point of fact we are just on the eve of a grand and final revival of the Fenian furor. Head Centre Stephens, with his gun upon his shoulder and his bayonet by his side, is announced to arrive here within a week, and a lecturing tour has already been arranged for him. At our last foreign advices Mr. Stephens was dining with the Marquis de Boissy at Paris, and we may congratulate the noble Marquis upon having at last found another thorough hater of England. A faithful report of the conversation at that dinner would exhibit all the various phases of Anglophobia. Beyond his intimacy with de Boissy, which afforded some amusement to the wits, Mr. Stephens appears to have created no sensation among the Parisians. The Emperor ignored him, although John Mitchell got out of Fort Monroe and went over to Paris and wrote all sorts of laudatory letters, and even approved of the government censorship of the press, in order to pave and carpet the way for the reception of Mr. Stephens at the Tuilleries. The French evidently cannot understand upon what grounds Mr. Stephens rests his claims to a great reputation. If it be upon the fact that he organized a conspiracy which was promptly suppressed, Paris is full of such inventors of abortive schemes. If it be upon the fact that he escaped from a British jail, then Jack Sheppard outrivals him. In this country, on the other hand, we do not take such narrow views, and Mr. Stephens will be received with enthusiasm and will become immensely, though temporarily, popular. Whether he will side with O'Mahony or with Roberts, or whether he will start a new and independent Fenian movement here, seems to be undetermined. We have been informed that he is opposed to the invasion of Canada, but so was O'Mahony until he became afraid that Roberts was getting ahead of him. The best way will be for each faction to provide a coach and four and a brass band, and let Mr. Stephens take his choice when he lands from the steamer. Everything in the world depends upon trifles; and as the color of the horses, the style of the carriage or the tune played by the band may decide Mr. Stephens, we advise both O'Mahony and Roberts to exercise extraordinary care in these details.

Those who remember the career of Kossuth in this country need not be told what will be the programme of Mr. Stephens. Ireland has been often compared to Hungary, and Mr. Stephens is the Irish Kossuth. He will be feasted and serenaded. There will be processions and other demonstrations in his honor. He will deliver loud and strong speeches and elicit cheers and applause. As he journeys through the land he will make brief addresses from the rear platforms of railway cars when the trains stop and the people shout. His photographs will be sold by thousands, and there will be the greatest curiosity to behold him. Kossuth wore a black velvet coat, and Mr. Stephens will probably appear in a suit of green velvet, to set the fashion of the wearing of the green. Instead of a feather, Mr. Stephens will sport a shamrock. We shall have the Stephens hat, the Stephens collar, the Stephens trousers and the Stephens necktie. His raid upon the poor Irish will be very remunerative. He will mulct them of more money than tyrannical England could squeeze out of them in a century of extortion. They will buy his photographs; they will purchase his biography; they will pay to hear him lecture; they will subscribe liberally for the Fenian cause, and they will invest their hard earnings in Fenian bonds. The laborer will break into his little hoard; the servant girl will give up the money she has saved to send home to her poor mother; the washerwoman will take her scanty dollars out of the savings bank, at the call of Mr. Stephens. The millions of dollars already entrusted to O'Mahony and Roberts will be forgotten, and millions more will be cheerfully paid into the hands of the Head Centre. But what will happen when all this is over? When the last speech has been made, the last meeting held, the last cheer raised and the last cent contributed, what will Mr. Stephens do? Will he go back and drive the English out of Ireland? Something more than money is needed to effect this. Will he raise a Fenian army? O'Mahony has tried that. Will he capture Canada? Roberts and Sweeney have undertaken this job and been paid for it in advance. Will he set out Fenian privateers? The government would arrest him and put him into a prison from which he cannot escape should he undertake such a violation of our laws. What will he do?

The Hungarian Kossuth bought a few saddles, pocketed the rest of the money and slipped away to Europe under the disguise of John Smith. The Irish Kossuth may buy bridges instead of saddles, and call himself Jones instead of Smith; but what right have we to expect any other differences in the termination of his raid?

The Committee of Fifteen and the Administration.

The complicated, rigid and revolutionary schemes of Southern reconstruction reported in both houses of Congress the other day from their joint Committee of Fifteen do not appear to be received by the republicans as the infallible panacea for the Southern evils complained of which the committee had supposed it to be. For instance, Mr. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, has given notice of a material amendment to one of the two bills embraced in the plan of the committee, and Mr. Bingham, a leading republican of Ohio, has given notice of another amendment of the same purport—to wit: that whenever the proposed constitutional amendment in regard to federal representation, negro suffrage, civil rights, rebel debts and the federal disfranchisement till 1870 of all persons voluntarily aiding the rebellion shall have been ratified by any State lately in rebellion, and when any such State shall have modified its laws in conformity therewith, the Senators and Representatives from such State, if found duly elected and qualified, may, after having taken the required oath of office, be admitted into Congress.

This is a material improvement upon the committee's plan, which requires the aforesaid amendment to be engrafted in the federal constitution before any one of the excluded States can be readmitted into Congress. Subjected to this condition the outside States may be kept outside for ten, fifteen or twenty years to come. Mr. Bingham, in holding each of those States only to its own ratification, comes nearer the line of justice; but still the question recurs, is even this proposed constitutional amendment necessary?

It proposes to put these new provisions into the federal constitution, first, by a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress; and, secondly, by a ratification of three-fourths of the Legislatures of the several States, viz:—Section 1. The enforcement of the civil rights of all persons in all the States, on a footing of equality. But is not this, for all practical purposes, sufficiently provided for in the Civil Rights bill? Section 2. That representation in Congress shall be graduated and limited according to the restriction of suffrage at the ballot box in the several States. This may be a good thing; but why should it be encumbered with section 3, which disfranchises from all federal elections, till July 4, 1870, all persons voluntarily aiding the rebellion? Why should the great mass of the whites of the Southern States be required to ratify their own disfranchisement in order to get back into Congress? Section 4 prohibits any recognition or payment of the debts of the rebellion by the United States or any State, and of any claims for losses of slaves on account of their emancipation. There is surely no necessity for a constitutional amendment in regard to these things, when, in the reconstruction of the Southern States under President Johnson's directions we are made secure for the future.

The simple truth is that where there is anything practical, reasonable or essential in this Congressional plan, it has been provided for in the President's plan. The joint committee adopt his work, accept his measures, and appear to like them so well that they desire to put them into the constitution. But the committee say that while all this is very good it is not enough. We must disfranchise the Southern whites till they enfranchise their black population, and make this a constitutional requirement to the return of the excluded States to Congress. The President and his Cabinet, it appears, including Messrs. Seward, Stanton, Welles and others, hold the ground that no further conditions precedent are needed, either in the form of constitutional amendments or bills to qualify the excluded States for Congress; that, as they stand, they are entitled to admission in the persons of the loyal men elected to represent them. The joint committee of Congress cannot agree with the President simply because, while his object is to bring the excluded States back into the government as soon as possible, the plan and the purpose of Congress are to keep them out as long as possible.

It is apparent, however, that over this reconstruction schedule of constitutional amendments and Congressional bills reported from the joint Committee of Fifteen, there will be a severe struggle in both houses. That the scheme cannot pass in its present shape is generally believed; that it ought not to pass is conceded even by some leading radicals. The two houses in their conditions of Southern reconstruction must come something nearer to Southern restoration, or they will probably only agree to disagree and be compelled to leave the field in the possession of the President and his successful and satisfactory policy.

LIFE INSURANCE AND SUICIDE.

A decision has just been rendered by the Supreme Court in the State of Maine which is calculated, we should think, to excite some interest among the insurance companies and life insurers. It was a case in which a man committed suicide and his heirs claimed the amount for which his life was insured. We believe that in almost all life insurance policies there is a clause which absolves the company from payment when death occurs by *felio de se*. Are the life insurance companies of Maine conducted on different principles from those of this State? Probably the court held that suicide occurs from insanity and is the result of a special affliction of Providence, and therefore a natural death. We hardly think that such a judgment would pass uncontroverted in New York. The insurance companies would be in a bad fix if this rule was established, for there are a great many men who would insure their lives for the benefit of their families and then commit suicide. It is rather a risky kind of gambling operation, it is true, but still there are some people who would be found to try it. The good old rule that *felio de se* violates a life insurance policy is about the best, after all.

VERY DOUBTFUL.—It is reported from Washington that Secretary Stanton is for adhering to the President's reconstruction policy. This is perhaps not quite a straight story. It is quite possible that he objects to the report of the Reconstruction Committee; but the reason

of that objection is doubtless because that committee does not repudiate the President's acts.

MR. GEORGE PEABODY.—This gentleman, who has by his distinguished career in England done so much to reflect credit upon his country, has just arrived in the land of his birth. Mr. Peabody is one of those men to whom honors heaped even by royal hands can add little in the way of reputation. The democratic simplicity which displays itself in his character is not less to be admired than his sumptuous liberality and boundless charity, which have been exercised with equal devotion to America and to England. In the latter country he has been the recipient of royal favors as well as of the respect and good will of all classes of the people among whom he has so long resided. On his present visit to his own country we have no doubt that he will receive a due recognition of his worth.

Threatened Destruction of the Commission-Business—State Tax on Merchandise Brokers.

We publish elsewhere a law of a somewhat extraordinary character, which was passed by the last Legislature of this State and signed by the Governor. It provides for an enormous State tax, or fees, upon all auction sales and store goods, wares and merchandise or other personal property which shall be exposed for sale by samples by brokers. All wines and ardent spirits at the rate of one dollar on every one hundred. All goods imported from beyond the Cape of Good Hope at the rate of fifty cents on every one hundred dollars, and all merchandise the product of any foreign country at the rate of seventy-five cents for every one hundred dollars. The Comptroller of the State is directed to appoint agents to collect this tax and receive bonds of all brokers and auctioneers.

There is evidently a large cat in this meal somewhere. It has very much the appearance of a monster scheme to provide, fat places for favorites at the expense of important business interests in this city. What makes it more suspicious and extraordinary is that it was quietly slipped through without attracting any attention either by the members of the Legislature, the reporters of the press or those who are affected by it. The first that the public knew of it was after it was signed and filed in the office of the Secretary of State. Its effect will be seen from the fact that brokers who engage in selling tea by sample now charge one per cent. On this they pay the internal revenue tax, and will now be required to pay one-half of one per cent in addition to the State. The sugar brokers charge one quarter of one per cent on their sales, and under this law they will be required to pay three quarters of one per cent State tax, making a tax, besides the internal revenue, of three times the amount charged by them for their services. Bonds have to be given and fees paid for filing them. It seems as if the Legislature of this State was determined to drive business from this city to other points, like Boston and Philadelphia. It strikes a severe blow at the whole commission business in this city and State, and virtually compels those enterprising men to abandon their trade. The enforcement of the law according to its letter and spirit will prove almost a complete destruction to the commission and brokerage business in this metropolis. All who are engaged in that line are very justly indignant and have held several meetings to see what can be done in the emergency. The report of the proceedings of the meeting held in Pine street yesterday, which we publish this morning, will give some idea of the dilemma which the merchandise brokers find themselves in under this law. They seem to be in great doubt as to what they shall do, whether abandon their business or test the law in the courts. A repeal was urged, but the Legislature which passed it having adjourned and the Governor having signed the bill, no relief can come from that source until next January. It is certainly a mystery how Governor Fenton ever signed so ruinous a measure. The fact that he has done so speaks very well for his sagacity or ability. In the present emergency we can see no other course for the parties affected by the law but to appeal to the United States courts.

The tax imposed on foreign goods and merchandise is clearly unconstitutional, and was, we believe, in effect so decided by the United States Courts some years since. This is a question which Congress alone has jurisdiction over. It is a tax on commerce that brings the Legislature in conflict with the constitution of the United States. Those interested should make up a case as soon as possible and take it before a United States Circuit Court and have it adjudicated upon. There can be no doubt as to the decision of the Court in the matter. No jurists could possibly decide the law constitutional. This should be done at once, before the politicians who have concocted this scheme and provided rich places for themselves can secure the coveted prize. This course should be adopted to rebuke the Albany schemers and as a warning that there are vested interests which they cannot appropriate to themselves at pleasure.

Fires in New York.

IN SPRING STREET.—A fire broke out on Wednesday morning at five o'clock on the premises No. 134 Spring street, in the apartments of Herman Goldstein. It seems by the statement made by Mr. Goldstein that he took a kerosene lamp from the sitting room to the room adjoining to get some water, and placed the lamp on a trunk under some articles of his wife's clothing which hung against the wall; that while getting the drink of water he noticed a flame of light, and found that the clothing was on fire. He at once endeavored to put out the fire, but the flames set fire to some molten that was locked on the ceiling; they spread so rapidly that he was compelled to leave, and with much difficulty did he and his wife, with three small children, escape suffocation. On the first floor Mr. Goldstein kept a small store for the sale of jewelry, and watch and clock repairing. His damage is estimated at about \$1,000. Insured for \$2,000 in the Fenwick and Great Northern Assurance Co. of London. The building is of frame, of two stories, and is damaged about \$700. Insured.